



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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Bush Urges Quick Passage of Education Plan in Radio Address

In his Saturday national radio address, President Bush called on Congress to quickly pass his education reform plan. The House-Senate conference worked through Congress' August district work period to ensure that final action can occur in the coming weeks. Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), chairman of the conference, has urged conferees to complete the process as quickly as possible. Excerpts from the President's address are included below:

"The progress of our economy and the future of our children starts in the classroom. And that's why education must be our nation's highest priority. At this time of year, many of our children have already returned to school and others are about to return. Congress, too, is returning from its summer recess, and it left behind some unfinished business: my education reform plan. ... Congress should now produce a single bill that incorporates the strong reforms I have proposed."

"It is vital that this bill uphold clear standards, require regular testing and provide real accountability. Our children need the help my education plan will provide: a new commitment to reading and early intervention to catch those who fall behind. The more swiftly Congress acts, the more time educators will have to prepare. If Congress delays to play political games, they put another generation of students at risk."

"The education reform bill I support offers new resources to schools. In return, it calls for improvements in math and reading, proven by testing from every school in America. ... We want to start adopting reforms this school year so they can be up and running by the beginning of next school year. We've made good progress, now we must finish the job."

Message of the Day

President Bush's education reform plan targets funding increases to students who need it the most and streamlines bureaucracy.

- ❑ *Real accountability is essential if we are going to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.*
- ❑ *We should increase funding for programs that have proven effective and ensure that federal education dollars are targeted to where they will make the biggest impact for our children.*
- ❑ *We have a moral obligation to reach out and help children who have been dealt a difficult hand in life; 35 years of failed education policies cannot stand. The status quo must end.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, 38 percent of fourth graders cannot read at a basic level -- that is, they cannot read and understand a short paragraph that one would find in a simple children's book. **Moreover, reading failure disproportionately affects children who live in poverty.**
- On the 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress, 73 percent of white students performed at or above the basic level in 4th grade reading, compared with just 40 percent of Hispanic students and only 36 percent of African American students.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Following the principles of No Child Left Behind, all of us, working together, can change schools for the better so that parents have more choices, teachers have more resources, districts have more flexibility, everyone has more information, and, most important, no child is left behind." **Education Secretary Rod Paige, *The Tennessean*, August 29, 2001**